

The Colored American

Published by THE COLORED AMERICAN Publishing Company.

A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

Published every Saturday at 459 C St. N. W. Washington, D. C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One year - - - \$2.00
Six months - - - 1.10
Three months - - - .60

INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

Subscriptions may be sent by postoffice money order, express or by registered letter. All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Reading notices 50 cents per line. Display advertisements, \$2 per square inch per insertion. Discounts made on large contracts.

Entered at the Post-office as second-class matter.

All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

THE COLORED AMERICAN,
EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER

459 C Street Northwest.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Sold by all all News Dealers.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1902.

NOTICE TO AGENTS

The next issue of The Colored American will contain a four colored supplement of one of the leading colored men in the United States, Dr. William L. Taylor, President of the True Reformers' Bank, Richmond, Va. This number will contain many new and interesting features among which will be a picture and sketch of the new \$60,000 building in this city. The price of this issue will be ten cents per copy and the agents will be supplied with them at five cents a copy. Orders for extra copies should be sent in at once in order that they can be filled promptly.

AN ODISIOUS CAR LAW.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good" is an adage that has withstood the ravages of time.

The arrest in Alexandria, of Miss Mary Custis Lee, daughter of General Robert E. Lee, of Confederate army fame, furnishes us a text for a brief lay sermon. The charge against Miss Lee was that she insisted upon occupying a seat in the portion of the electric car set apart for Negroes contrary to the new "jim crow" car law of the state of Virginia. The episode has stirred up much feeling among the better classes of the Old Dominion. They have never been in hearty sympathy with the separate street car idea, which was championed by one Mr. Caton, a representative of the poor whites of Alexandria county, and who foisted the measure upon certain roads, after being beaten by the more influential corporations. It is conceded that the effect of Miss Lee's humiliating arrest will be to make the law odious, especially so far as the Mt. Vernon line is concerned, and it is openly asserted by leading Confederate veterans of Richmond that they will make an effort to have the law repealed at the next session of the legislature. There has been criticism and discontent ever since the separate seat policy has been in vogue. The conductors and the people have been put to inconvenience in many ways, and with strange passengers on every trip, who are unfamiliar with the rules, constant friction is bound to be the result.

We are glad the incident happened, although sorry for Miss Lee personally, for we understand that she, by reason of her culture and aristocratic antecedents, is liberal upon matters relating to the rights of man and has no patience with the petty racial animosities that fill the breasts of Virginians of the Caton stripe.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good," and Miss Lee's discomfiture may be the entering wedge to an era of common sense that will sweep away this law, which is not only illogical and unjust, but will be proven unconstitutional, if ever given a square test before the courts. In the meantime, however, let the law be rigidly enforced, no matter how many arrests may be found necessary, nor how much confusion may be caused. The way to secure the repeal of a law that has no foundation in right is to enforce it, without exception, upon the high, the low, the rich and the poor—the high and rich, in particular, for they have the power and will strike back when injured.

The poor are compelled to submit to abuses generally, until some influential person is caught in the meshes, and then agitation for a reform is waged until relief is brought about. Miss Lee's case must not be permitted to die out of the public mind, for her arrest was made under a law that lowers her and her race in the eyes of Christian people and outrages colored American manhood everywhere. Keep the question alive.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good."

The Colored American does not bite its tongue when it has an opinion to express on any issue.

RELIGION OF THE SKIN.

Christianity must be at a low ebb among the white people of Frankford, Del. A Mr. Burton secured a colored boy from a children's home in New Jersey, and being a member of the Unity M. E. church, wished to have the lad attend with him. The congregation rose in arms against the innovation, and the sexton resigned. The minister tried to sustain the gospel by holding up for the boy, but was advised "to get a call to a Negro church if he preached to Negroes." Peace was restored only when Mr. Burton decided not to take the boy to church again. Have the Delaware Methodists revised their creed so as to provide for a religion of the skin, and amended Christ's divine invitation so as to read Suffer little white children to come unto me, and forbid them not, etc?

True education is a foe to prejudice.

MILK AND WATER POLITICS NOT WANTED.

We hope that General Clarkson will be powerful enough to assist President Roosevelt in piloting the politics of New York once more into the sea of stern purpose where Grant and Conkling left it. A republican victory should mean reward for those who brought it about and not for democrats or for weak kneed sycophants who held aloof while the Trojans worked. Democrats do not coax republicans into their party

by a surrender of either principles or loaves and fishes.

The bark of some of our contemporaries is worse than their bite.

There are signs of another revolt on the part of the colored republicans of Maryland. Mr. Mudd seems to be the storm center at present, but the fury of the blast threatens to spread as it goes. If Congressmen cannot keep their word with those who have placed them in power, the only sensible thing to do is to leave them at home, and give some one else a trial.

The new union station should be located in South Washington.

The farm is the basis of material prosperity. Intelligence fashions and utilizes it for the benefit of mankind.

When the testimony of outrages in the Philippines is read, it appears to one up a tree that Denmark is not the only place where rottenness exists:

Bishop Hood is right. A pulpit had better be vacant than occupied by a spiteful, incompetent, bombastic or immoral preacher.

Industrial education fits a girl to earn an honest living, should she be thrown upon her own resources by the death or disability of parents.

The new appropriation bill for the District of Columbia gives the Recorder's office a neat little "show for its white alley," Mr. Dancy is correspondingly happy.

The responsibility for lynching is two-fold. First, upon the individual committing the crime, then, upon the community if it fails to administer adequate punishment.

We would say to an inquiring correspondent that all of the "speak-easies" in Washington are not colored, as the police records would seem to show. The fact is that all those that suffer from raids happen to be colored.

It appears that the Negro will be an offense to some Southern whites whether in life or in death. A few days ago a colored Episcopal priest of Atlanta died, and the family was tendered a grave for the body in a white cemetery. This was resisted by injunction, and the body now lies in a vault while the legal phase of the problem is being discussed.

Indifference to lynching is complicity in the crime.

Register Lyons in Indiana.

A man who has a firm grasp upon the social and economic issues of the day as they affect the colored people of the United States is the Hon. Judon W. Lyons, our very popular and capable Register of the Treasury. His speeches and interviews never fail to reach the marrow of a situation, no matter how difficult or embarrassing, and his counsel is listened to everywhere with manifestations of approval, which are like complimentary to his superior ability and to the increased tendency of our people to follow intelligent leadership. The subjoined, extract from the New Albany Daily Evening Tribune, is one of many testimonies extolling the words of wisdom delivered by Mr. Lyons at the high school commencement there. Says the Tribune:

"The recent address of the Hon. J. W. Lyons, Register of the Treasury,

was the ablest presentation of the Negro problem ever heard in this city. He presented an array of statistical facts that made a marvelous showing for the Negro race. His advancement in literature and the mechanical arts is highly creditable. Mr. Lyons' address will be a great incentive to the Negroes of this section and his visit here has done untold good."

SOWING AND REAPING.

(Continued from First page.)

ton Loan and Trust Co., and other large moneyed institutions in this city, were once department clerks, and messengers, but when they began business their white fellow clerks and messengers rallied around them, and made their business prosperous and solid. What do our young men do? They take great delight in telling you that they take no stock in colored banks, colored stores of any kind, or other enterprises owned and operated by members of their own race. What can the harvest be from such creatures? The young Negroes, those who came into existence since the War of the Rebellion, and who are educated in the book, but are woefully lacking in race enterprise, race pride and self respect, are the ones mostly to blame for present conditions. I could cite many instances to prove this statement, but the narration would be too humiliating. In reading the accounts of the High School drills, white and colored, I could but notice the fact that not a single representative colored official or citizen, was named as being in attendance upon the white drill, much less occupying boxes, while at the colored cadets' drill the choicest boxes were reserved for white officials and white guests.

We scream about "Jim Crow" cars, and groan because of race discriminations in theatres, and elsewhere, yet our highest educational institutions set the example of preference for our white citizens in all their public functions. They take all the prominence we choose to give them, and in return kick us out of theatres, consign us to "Jim Crow" cars, send us up into the "coon gallery," and utterly ignore us upon all such occasions as public school drills or commencement exercises for their thanks.

We advertise our lack of self respect further by annually going to the white officers of the District Militia for our judges at cadet drills, giving them plainly to understand that we have no confidence in the ability of our colored officers of the First Separate Battalion, who gain their commissions by the same tests of ability as the whites. I am often taunted with these facts by white people in discussing the race question. They point to the servant class of our people, and tell me that they prefer to serve them to us, and if I attribute it to their ignorance and degradation, they turn to our educated class, and cite just such cases as I have mentioned in our High School cadet drills—a splendid object lesson to our young men, and young women in these schools.

The white race have us all along the line, from the highest to the lowest. Whenever they come among us in our churches, schools, or on public occasions of any kind, they are objects of the most obsequious attention from us. We lift our hats higher, bow lower, and give them a broad grin in return for the slightest sign of recognition. Those of us who do not practice this sort of thing are the exception. I wish it were otherwise.

We have a great National organization, "The Afro-American Council," whose influence has been acknowledged in some quarters, and in the face of the fact that we have put forward for places on the Federal bench, lawyers of learning and experience, of our own race, yet when we have a cause to bring before our courts, we gather up our thousands of dollars and dump them into the lap of some white lawyer of only local repute, thereby at the very outset acknowledging our lack of confidence in the ability of those we press upon the President for judicial appointments.

A race that cannot find ability within its own ranks to plead its own cause, is certainly in sore straits. But we have the men equal to the emergency; the small fry managers alone are to blame for not employing them.

CHAS. R. DOUGLASS.
Washington, D. C., June 16, 1902.